

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT ACCESS CABLE TELEVISION POLICY

PURPOSE

The following policy was developed to provide guidelines to effectively and efficiently manage the overall operation of the Government Access Cable Channel known as Middletown Channel 10, define the function and correct usage of the channel, define appropriate content, provide direction to Township staff, and assist the public in understanding the services offered by the channel.

Middletown Channel 10 is designated as a Government Access Channel as provided for in the 1984 Cable Act.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Middletown Channel 10 are to offer government information to citizens of the community; to expand community awareness of local government, including activities of the legislative and advisory bodies and boards of Middletown Township; to provide comprehensive educational and public informational materials to Township residents about programs and services offered by various Township Departments; to provide information pertinent to Middletown residents from other local, state, and federal governmental entities; and to improve emergency communications in the event of disaster or widespread service disruption.

ACCESS POLICY

It is the policy of Middletown Channel 10 to provide Township residents with direct, non-editorial information concerning government deliberations, services, programs, events and activities, and also to provide educational and public information materials sponsored by Middletown Township. Access to the channel shall be limited to Township, government, or quasi-government functions and operations, and shall only carry information regarding activities originating from governmental entities. Channel 10 is not to be utilized for announcements from the general public. Based on current programming, the broadcasting of PCN during the hours when the Middletown Bulletin Board is not being broadcast is not inconsistent with the goals of the Government Access Cable Channel.

The following information may be broadcast on Channel 10, including information of Township Department events and activities, information on events and activities sponsored by the three Township Fire Companies, the Middletown Free Library, the County of Delaware, the State of Pennsylvania, the US Federal Government, and any other government agencies or departments.

Any material which, in the judgment of the Township, is inconsistent with any federal, state, local law, ordinance or rule, and/or subjects the Township unreasonably to potential liability is prohibited from being placed on Channel 10.

The Township reserves the right to enter into agreements as approved by Township Council with entities that provide enhanced bulletin board production features, and which may include limited sponsorship. The commercial entities that appear in the context of the overall enhancement of the channel are not inconsistent with the general Cable Access policy.

POLITICAL PROGRAMMING

This cable channel is not intended as a political forum, or as a mechanism for building support for a particular policy, program or issue not supported by a majority of Township Council. No political programming will be permitted on the Government Access Channel with the exception of providing factual information on any ballot issue directly affecting Middletown voters.

PROMOTIONS

Promotional announcements for Township-sponsored events, programs, and activities will be permitted over Channel 10. Promotional announcements for events, charities or outside organizations in which the Township has no official interest or sponsorship shall not be permitted.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Channel 10 may be used at any time for the purpose of emergency communication and response. In these cases, direction will be taken from the procedures outlined in the Middletown Township Emergency Operations Plan.

PROGRAMMING AUTHORITY

Final approval of all requests will be made by the Township Manager.

Adopted 11/27/06